3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

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facing page 4 (a)

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P
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Vienna
R I A
HUNGARY
YUGOSLAVIA
Boundar
Interna
World
Sea

3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Ausria EK1

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undaries of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.....
ernational Boundaries after the First
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facing p 4 (c)

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*Bregenz in 1799.*

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BREGENZ AND LAKE CONSTANCE. Old and venerable Bregenz, Austria's gateway to the West, has maintained its leading position in the life of Vorarlberg throughout the centuries and today it is still the capital. It has been favoured in its situation. On one side it nestles beneath the protecting spurs of the Northern Alps; on the other it stands astride the route which traffic has followed from the earliest times along the banks of the Rhine, one of the natural highways of Europe. These factors have made of it a little town with a charm which is all its own. Its strategic importance was proved again and again during the chaos of barbarian invasion by the Saracens or from the East, during the quarrels of feudal overlords and the inroads of the Appenzell folk and the Thirty Years' War. These have left marks on its countenance which, do it honour and give it a claim on one's respect. These lines are not the wrinkles of age, but an indication that the spirit behind them has learnt how to overcome adversity and to pursue a settled course with courage and consistency.

Modern Bregenz is once again proving by its actions the existence of this driving spirit. It is fully aware of its importance as Austria's open gateway to the West, and from this realisation has come the strength to begin reconstruction, which in view of the Motherland's difficult position after the second destructive world-war is doubly important.

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The cable railway which leads straight from the town to the commanding heights of the Pfänder reveals that the attraction of Bregenz lies not only

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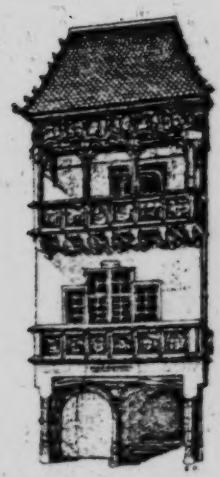

*Innsbruck, Goldenes Dachl.*

Europe is distinguished from the other continents by its combination of the maximum number of diversities in the minimum space. Austria is similarly singled out among the other European countries. And within Austria, the same distinction applies to Tyrol. The strong feeling of unity found in this province, contrasted with the diversities of its population, landscape and climate make it as strange yet alluring as its own name—Tyrol ....

THE FORMATION OF THE PROVINCE. North Tyrol can be said to be divided into two by the axis of the Brenner line and to be evenly balanced on either side of it. Taking Innsbruck as lying on the axis itself, we have Hall and Zirl, Telfs and Schwaz, Imst and Jenbach, balancing one another. The two great valleys on either side, the Ötztal and the Zillertal, have the Silltal between them. The curve of the Inn near Landeck is counterbalanced by its bend near Wörgl; there its upper branch runs south, as here its lower branch runs north; there the railway leaves the river and climbs to the snowy Arlberg, here it branches off to the ski-ers' paradise on the heights between Kitzbühel and Hochfilzen.

In the Alps the Seefelder Sattel forms a continuation of the north-south axis. On the one side stretch the Mieminger and the Wetterstein, on the other the chain of the Karwendel. The pass and lakes of the Fern lead from the Upper Inn Valley, the lake and pass of Achen from the Lower Inn Valley towards Bavaria.

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Ötztal Costume.

Beyond this territorial formation lies, in the north-west of the Province, the Außerfern, with intervening gateways—the district of Reutte through which flow the rivers Lech and Loisach, and in the south-east of the province of East Tyrol, the district of Lienz, watered by the Isel and the Drau.

The formation of Tyrol is regular—not rigidly symmetrical, but harmonious. The features which offset one another have both similarity and differences. The Ziller Valley, for example, at first broad and almost devoid of interesting features, rises a bare 300 feet at Mayrhofen. There it splits up into the "Gründe", like the fingers of a hand, and suddenly reveals its whole beauty; only the "thumb" has extended earlier at Zell in the Gerlos. In contrast, the valley of the Ötz rises by the "steps" of Ötz, Umhausen, Längenfeld and Sölden through delightfully contrasting gorges and basins until, after passing Zwieselstein, at Gurgl and Vent, it reaches the highest farmhouse, which lies at a height of over 6000 feet. The Sill Valley is unlike both. Starting from Innsbruck, the capital of the Province, it carries the main railway line and the main road up to a deeply cut pass with glaciers left and right. The Upper and the Lower Inn Valleys are equally important, but as different from one another as night from day, as are the chalk formations from the primary rocks south of the Inn.

132 The wanderer—in Tyrol one has to wander—comes across sudden changes in scenery as well as sudden changes of weather. North and South contest one against the other. The Föhn (south wind) forces the snow to retreat high up into the mountains in winter—the temperature may rise 70 degrees Fahrenheit in twelve hours—and in August a cold spell may cause a very sharp fall. Mountain and valley intensify the contrasts. He who freezes at midday in the eternal winter

*Evening on the Ossiachersee.*

Over Carinthia hovers the atmosphere peculiar to a frontier province, the perfume of-far-distant lands which, coming as it does here from the Slavonic East and the Latin South, makes one's heart beat faster even in settled times. The irresistible stream of life constantly carries a trace of foreign customs through the filter where contact is made with other territories, influencing both nature and the works of man. The force of nature is so strong that it is able to combine even opposing elements into a united whole, forming from them something individual, compact, harmonious, truly Austrian and specifically Carinthian.

SYMPHONY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE. In its physical features the province resembles a mussel-shell, with level ground and deep rills which extend far up into the surrounding framework of mountains. At first falling steeply, then more gradually, the mountains sink into the plain from the west, north and east. To the south stands a disconnected Alpine wall.

Nature has left but few passes in this girdle of mountains, and even these are barely usable in winter. All the valleys lead to the lowest level where the waters collect, to be released eastwards by a single outlet, that which the Drau has made by its own force.

But what a variety of contours, what play of colours this mussel-shaped Province offers. It would be hard to find such a many-toned melody of colour and form within another area as small as this, with its bare 10,000 square kilometres.

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Four quarters make one whole: this expression was coined for Upper Austria. Security and tranquillity are the key-note of this province which stretches from the Alps to the forests of Bohemia, embracing a considerable stretch of the Danube. 131

The Upper Austrian peasant is not in the habit of making much fuss about his work and the city dweller is equally modest. But such modesty cannot be allowed to detract from the solid achievements of the peasants and townsmen which are Upper Austria's two first claims to fame. After these come her monasteries and convents.

But let the Province speak for itself and its inhabitants.

DOWN THE ENNS. Where the Enns leaving its narrow valley flows swiftly northwards to join the Danube, the "Green Province" joins Upper Austria at Steyr. Softly, gradually, the mountain ranges decline to smoothly rolling hills, until they subside restfully in the old iron town at the juncture of the Enns and the Steyr. For hundreds of years the hammers of armourers and cutlers have been pounding away on the banks of the river, for it is here that the iron of the Erzberg is welded into implements of peace and war. Together with the names of such well-known products as Werndl Rifles and Steyr motor cars, one comes across the name of Michael Blümelhuber. His part it was to produce delicate ornamental objects from the iron by his skill in steel-cutting. 133

131 The Burgenland has some strange features. It is the youngest province of Austria, yet it claims to be one of the oldest. For a time it belonged to Hungary, and just during this period it held a brilliant position in Austrian intellectual life, boasting of such mighty names as Haydn and Liszt, Hyrtl and Semmelweis. Its name is taken from three castles which no longer lie within its frontiers, but is justified by other castles as well. It is of considerable length—160 kilometres from North to South, corseted somewhere in the middle to a wasp-waist only four kilometres in diameter. Its plains are sparsely inhabited, while its mountain land is densely populated. It has a raw climate in the south, while in parts of its northern areas, the climate resembles that of Helwan in Egypt. Its frontiers with foreign countries are longer than its inland boundaries, yet it is Austrian to the core.

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133 The inquiring stranger who has set out on a voyage of discovery should first drive by car along the Bundesstrasse to Bruck-on-the-Leitha and here turn off to the right into the Leitha mountains which in the centre separate the Burgenland from Lower Austria. From the summits of the mountains one looks down on to the Neusiedler Lake. Over 900 feet above the shining surface of the lake one finds oneself beneath sighing trees growing on what was once the bottom of a great sea. The sea itself, it is true, disappeared thousands of years ago, but the work of its maritime life remains in the form of rich deposits of mussel chalk. Walking along any forest path in the Leitha-gebirge one can easily trace in the stones the fossil forms of long vanished animals and plants.

When the tourist is weary of scientific research he can clear his brain in the sparkling Neusiedler Lake or with the no less inviting wine which ripens on its shores.

423 The plain to the north of the Neusiedler Lake was always one of vast estates. Between the scattered villages lie the dairy farms of the great landowners, who have their castles and manors in the villages. In Kittsee, Gattendorf and Halbturn there are many examples of baroque art. Lukas von Hildebrandt, Maulpertsch and others were commissioned to work there for the Magyar feudal landowners, Esterházy, Batthyány and so on.

133 Adjoining this countryside, the moor-land district, is tucked away on the eastern shores of the Neusiedler Lake a cloud-overcast and wind-harassed group of lakes. There are a number of warm and brackish little lakes, scattered over steppes of pronouncedly eastern character. Sea-sparwort, feathered grasses and copper-

*FOLKSONG.*

*When Croatian girls are singing*
*To the tamburizza's sound,*
*You hear ancient lays a-ringing,*
*Every eye casts smiles around.*

*For they're singing of Junaken,*
*Their lord's rapture and distress.*
*Of the king's descendant, Marko,*
*And his wife, the proud princess.*

derable development of traffic and trade. The Bernsteinstrasse, that famous trading highway of prehistoric times along which, about 1000 years before Christ, the honey-coloured amber, tears of the sea, was brought from the coasts of Samland to Italy, passes through the Burgenland. It crossed the Danube at Hainburg, a predecessor of the Roman road which later lead to Italy by way of Carnuntum, Ödenburg, Steinamanger and Laibach. Today Ödenburg (Sopron) belongs to Hungary. What the "Ödenburg Sack", connected to Hungary by a narrow tongue of land only five kilometres wide between the frontier and the Neusiedler Lake is to Hungary, is to Austria the "Ödenburg Spur" which limits the Burgenland to a width of four kilometres and almost cuts the northern and southern parts of the Province off from one another. Seven roads and three railways are thus cut off. The only road which connects the two regions had to be built by the Austrian Government.

*"The bloody Hall", Lockenhaus Castle.*

Southwards this road leads to the Oberpullendorf district, a hilly country with varied scenery and attractions of its own. Anyone interested in tracing historical developments must hasten through the Province to the spot where a range of mountains forms a barrier dividing Burgenland into two parts. The eastern corner which at the same time marks the Hungarian frontier, is the Geschriebenstein, the tallest mountain of the Province, some 2,700 feet high. Its summit affords a wide view across the plain of Raabau. On its slopes, just on the other side of the frontier at Wöllmbach, on the St. Veitsberg, stood one of the best-known foundries in the Bronze Age, a prehistoric industrial centre.

Here the Burgenland reveals itself to the traveller. At the foot of the Geschriebenstein lies the forest-surrounded castle of Lockenhaus, which, with its Gothic Knights' Hall and a keep five stories high, dates back to the year 1200. Almost as old are the ruins of Landsee Castle on the borders of Lower Austria, one of the biggest castles in the country.

But to bore a tourist by dragging him from castle to castle as far as Kobersdorf would be risky, since it would—finally land him on volcanic soil.

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First let us visit the basket weavers of the beautiful Rabnitz Valley and the potters of Stoob where the ancient craft of pottery is still carried on by hand. Then let us cross to Raiding. Here the small house is still standing where a great man in the world of music first saw the light of day—Franz Liszt. He was triumphant the world over, from Russia to France and England. Everywhere the smiles of lovely women welcomed him but more and more he was affected by that melancholy which is reflected in the verses of Lenau. The latter had connections with the Burgenland through his mother; his lyrics won as many friends for the land of the *Puszta* as did the Hungarian rhapsodies of Liszt.

*Basket-Weaver.*

131 Past Ritzing, where the surface belongs to the Burgenland but the coal below it to Hungary, because the tunnels of Brennberg, near Ödenburg, burrow below the frontier, our way leads us to Sieggraben. This is the home of the Semmelweis family, whose most famous son brought salvation from the scourge of puerperal fever to the child-bearing mothers of all times. From here the road climbs to the summit of the Rosaliengebirge, where a view opens towards the east across the Wulka Plain, taking in Ödenburg and the Neusiedler Lake and westwards, the Bucklige Welt, Wiener Neustadt and the Leitha.

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*Village Drummer.*

On the Leitha also lies the battlefield of 1246. Friedrich the Quarrelsome, last of the Babenbergs, made the territory which had formerly belonged to the Mark of the Carolingians the subject of his first demands.

The Burgenland was long contested. Not for nothing do the many churches in its pleasant villages stand on commanding heights, surrounded by walls which give them the appearance of fortresses, and not for nothing were the many castles and fortified towers set up.

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The days of the Turkish invasions brought poverty and desolation to the land, but at the same time a new population which was fleeing from the Turks and found a new home in the Burgenland—the Croats. From Kroboteck in the district of Jennersdorf through Stinatz, Punkitz, Podgoria and Kroatisch-Minihof there

9: Rothschild E-4, 5 (no date) 1947 EK1 Austria EK1

# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

## THE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRIA.

728 WHEN the Foreign Secretaries of Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States met in Moscow in November, 1943, they issued a declaration stating that Austria, the first victim of German aggression, was to regain her independence at the end of the war; that this independence was to "open the way for the Austrian peoples themselves, as well as those neighbouring states which will be faced with similar problems, to find that political and economic security which is the only basis for lasting peace"; and that Austria's position would depend on the part the Austrians themselves play in their liberation.

731 This declaration was testimony to the importance which
721 is attached to Austria's independence from the point of view of European and world peace. A glance at the map reveals at once the central position which Austria occupies in the heart of Europe. Her frontiers border on six other countries; her capital, Vienna, lies at the junction of Europe's main east–west and south–north arteries; while the Danube is a natural gateway to the Balkans. Just as the collaboration of the Habsburgs was essential to the realization of Emperor Wilhelm's Berlin–Bagdad dreams in 1914, so the occupation of Austria in 1938 was the first prerequisite for Hitler's attacks on Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Balkans, and the Soviet Union. A prosperous and independent Austria, fully co-operating with her

## AUSTRIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

democratic neighbours, is therefore an essential condition for checking Germany's "*Drang nach dem Osten*" in the future. Indeed, if the Austrian state had not existed it might have been necessary to invent it.

Fortunately, no such invention is needed. The events which have taken place in Austria in the days of liberation, and since, testify to the ardent desire of most Austrians to rebuild their country on a firm, independent, and democratic basis. Austrians from all sections of society took part in the armed expulsion of the German occupationists. The liberating armies in the east and in the west were everywhere greeted with joy. For the first time in Austria's history, there is a spirit of unity and common purpose among all democratic Austrians. This has enabled them to form in a surprisingly short space of time a truly representative government, free trade unions, a progressive youth movement, and other democratic bodies which have made a bold start in rebuilding the shattered political and economic fabric. Remnants of Nazi cells and of Nazi ideology have certainly survived and remain to be dealt with. But there is no doubt that the vast majority of Austrians have been cured of any illusions they may have entertained about the necessity or desirability of an *Anschluss*.

This is a very welcome fact. It is, indeed, an essential condition of any democratic revival. But it is not, by itself, sufficient. As the Moscow Declaration rightly indicates, the creation of satisfactory economic conditions is essential if stability and peace in that area are to be secured. And it is on this score that some people, who are otherwise entirely in favour of Austrian independence, begin to raise their doubts. They remember the prolonged controversies after the last war which centred on this very point: whether the new Austrian Republic would